BEDWELLTY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The ANNUAL REPORTS
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Chief Sanitary Inspector

Year ended 31st. December, 1954.

Bedwellty Urban District Council.

With the
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Compliments.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
ABERBARGOED,
BARGOED, GLAM.

BEDWELLTY

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of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
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Year ended 31st. December, 1954.

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BEDWELLTY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955

Chairman: - Alderman E. Thomas, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: - Councillor J. Salway.

MEMBERS

Councillor	Lewis Lewis	Councillor	J. Roberts, J.P.
"	W. Davies	"	W. Hardacre
"	P. Bullen, D.F.C.	"	I.J. Bowen
"	E.G. Hodges	"	S.J. Collict
"	D. Davies	"	F.O. Sainsbury
"	G.H. Thomas	"	T.I. Davies
"	E. Johns	"	E.J. Butler
"	J.D. Turner	"	G.H. Hawker
"	G.M. Harries, B.A.	"	J. Coleman
"	S.T. Williams		

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: - Councillor Lewis Lewis

Vice-Chairman: - Councillor T.I. Davies

Councillor	D. Davies	Councillor	J. Coleman
"	E.G. Hodges	"	S.T. Williams
"	F.O. Sainsbury	"	W. Hardacre
"	I.J. Bowen	"	S.J. Collict
"	G.H. Thomas	"	W. Davies
"	J.D. Turner		

Clerk to the Council - D. Hilton Lewis, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. Richard Hoey, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	Dan Powell, M.B.E., F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat and Foods Inspector)
Sanitary Inspector	A.M. Coleman, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Qualifed Meat and Foods Inspector)
Sanitary Inspector and Shops Inspector ...	E.J. Francis, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat and Foods Inspector)
Rodent Operator	Clifford Shelton
Clerk	Selwyn Davies
Mortuary & Post Mortem Attendant ...	Elias Jones (Part-time)

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1954

Area of District in Acres	7,353
Population (Census 1921)	31,088
(Census 1931)	30,970
(Census 1951)	28,826
Estimated population for Birth & Death Rates 1954 ...	28,310
Number of inhabited houses (31/12/54)	7,200
Number of persons per house	3·93
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1955	£106,219
Product of Penny Rate, 1954-55.	£375
Number of births	534
Net birth rate	18·9
Number of illegitimate births	23
Number of deaths of residents	327
Net death rate...	11·55
Number of deaths under 1 year	22
Of these there were illegitimate	1
Infantile mortality, per 1,000 births	41·19
Number of women dying from childbirth	0
Number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	3
Number of deaths from all forms of Influenza	0
Number of deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	24
Number of deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	21
Number of deaths from all forms of Measles...	0
Number of deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases ...	106
Number of deaths from all forms of Cancer	40
Number of deaths from all forms of Pneumoconiosis... ...	10

Year	Births	Deaths
1948	703	325
1949	642	338
1950	626	319
1951	577	394
1952	563	300
1953	554	333
1954	534	327

Municipal Offices,

To the Chairman and Members of
the Bedwellty Urban District Council

Aberbargoed,

Bargoed, Glam.

6th June, 1955.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The year 1954 seems to have been associated in a return of confidence in the medical officer of health whose area is not so large as to preclude him from clinical work, both in this Urban District, in Monmouthshire and in the country as a whole. It may be that the recommendations of the Local Authority Associations have had something to do with it, but I also feel that the local medical officers themselves, whilst not unwilling to take advice and instructions from above, have now had time to show results in their communities to prove their versatility and indispensibility whilst working under the curiously difficult conditions of the present-day administrative tangle.

For my part, I have been extremely fortunate in being preoccupied with a comparatively new line of research - particularly associated with Bedwellty - and have ceased to wear out my carpets, kick the dog, or indulge in any other nervous habits associated with frustration. Now, at last, feeling that it is only a metter of time before the present public health system is substantially rectified, I have been able to devote much of my time and efforts to health education through the live theatre and puppetry, and I am very pleased to add that Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones, the County Medical Officer of Health has shown great interest in my efforts and gives me considerable encouragement. In order that I may deal with this subject completely in this Annual Report and return next year to social conditions, I ask your indulgence for mentioning events in 1953 and 1955.

Probably Bedwellty, in putting on "John Hendy" many years ago, (the now famous story of the dirty milkman) performed the first health education play in history. This district being known as "The Mecca of Drama" it is not surprising that the Council staged "The Pageant of Bedwellty" for the Coronation in 1953. Having had some personal success in that pageant, my wife and I tried to produce Barrie's "Quality Street" but pettiness and personal jealousy forced us to abandon this project.

Before Christmas 1953, however, we were able to stage two performances at Corah's Factory, Aberbargoed, of "Delikatessen", the play of the dirty couple in a snack bar. This was followed in the New Year by performanaces at New Tredegar and Pengam, and also the performance at Hopkinson's Motors, Cardiff, which medical officers, nurses and sanitary

inspectors were invited to attend, but which, for various reasons, was the most unsuccessful performance hitherto.

In the meantime, Mrs. Sally Havard of New Tredegar, had written a road safety play "A Coach for Cinderella", and put it into production. This was initiated by a competition organised by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. "A Coach for Cinderella" accompanied "Delikatessen" at the New Tredegar and Pengam shows and was instrumental in making both these performances possible. "A Coach for Cinderella" tells the story of a pantomime that had to be postponed four months owing to careless cycling by the leading lady. It is much enhanced by the Muse of Comedy with a happy ending, which, road accidents being what they are, might quite easily not have been the case. Performances of "A Coach for Cinderella" have occurred in the following order, including official performances for Gelligaer U.D.C. Road Safety Committee:- New Tredegar, Pengam, Gelligaer, Troedrhiwfuwch, Argoed and other requests were received but could not be met for various reasons. In every case the play has been extremely well received by the audience.

One single performance of my own production of my first manuscripted play "King Alfred" on the subject of clean food had meanwhile taken place at St. Margaret's Hall, Blackwood. This play has since been published, accompanied by a short article, in "The Medical Officer", the leading public health journal in this country. I have also published another article on dramatic health education in the World Health Organisation Newsletter, which has an extensive circulation in a number of languages.

Unfortunately, although I have used every means within my power to extend dramatic health education and Dr. A.J. Dalzell-Ward has publicised it in the "Health Education Digest" only a very small number of productions have resulted. This is extremely disappointing because if Bedwellty as a local authority can stage plays, there seems to be no reason why other local authorities should not. I have two plays on mental health and one on diphtheria immunisation which have never yet been produced. Copies can be sent free on demand. There is every reason to think that these methods will be adjunctive to other new methods being brought into use at present, and that they will facilitate the distribution and perusal of these recognised means of revolutionising the attitude of the word population to health problems; and a start here has been made with the distribution of literature published by the Central Council of Health Education (Director Dr. John Burton) during or after these performances, or other issues of written propaganda. Once the interest of the public has been aroused, leaflets become advertisements.

Then, turning my attention to puppetry I managed to persuade Mr. D.J. Hughes of Phillipstown Junior Mixed School (Headmaster Mr. E.O. Morris), to stage a diphtheria immunisation play "The Babe in Blunderland" which stars Punch as the rabid opponent of immunisation, and who

finally comes to grief with all his family. We are hoping now to take it round to some more schools and I think that puppetry as a health education method will spread far more quickly than drama, being much easier to take around. I am now writing a puppet version of "Red Riding Hood" on the prevention of tuberculosis. (I have also had an offer to publish "The Babe in Blunderland".)

More recently, the efforts of myself and those of Mrs. Sally Havard culminated in "The Safety First Show", at Argoed Welfare Hall. Dr. J.E. Seiler, Medical Officer of Health, Edinburgh, some time ago sent me a play on home accident prevention which he had already performed in his city. This I put into production in a Welsh (English) version under the altered title of "Accidents will Happen", and it had been first shown a few days previously at Pengam. Bronwen, the daughter of a rather stupid household who has entered Grammar School starts airing "new fangled ideas" about home safety. She is not at all appreciated by the other members of the household but in the matter of twenty minutes a series of disasters bring about a speedy conversion of her parents, brother and a neighbouring gossip who could be relied upon to carry the news elsewhere. This, and what is probably the final and a most polished performance of "A Coach for Cinderella" with another one-act play and some musical items has probably been our most sucessful evening's entertainment so far and was much enhanced by the attendance of Councillor Gilbert Thomas, Dr. A.J. Dalzell-Ward, Deputy Director, Central Council of Health Education, accompanied by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn-Jones, also Police Superintendant C.L. Parsons and Police Superintendant M. Morgan. A nominal charge was made for admission. I hope also shortly to embark on the production of a play "Beware Gremlins", published by the Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents, requiring a cast of schoolboys, on the subject of Road Safety.

I am much indebted to the members of the Bedwellty Urban District Council for giving me permission to carry out this work and material aid short of any direct cash grant, to the Council's Road Safety Committee and to the Road Safety Committee (and Mr. Trevor Lloyd, its Secretary) of Gelligaer U.D.C. To the members of No. 2 Area Health Committee for their encouragement, and I should imagine to the majority of the members of the Council's staff who have helped me at one time or another, and particularly to Mr. T.J. Jones, Surveyor, who has always been most co-operative, and to the Chairmen and Committees of halls and institutes, particularly those of Cefn Fforest and Pengam. I regret that to publish a complete list of names is a too formidable task for this type of publication. I am also indebted to the casts of the plays, the audiences and to anybody else who has in any way assisted at one of these performances.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. HOEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

B I R T H S 1 9 5 4

The births registered during the year:

	Males	Females
Legitimate	268	243
Illegitimate	14	9
Totals	282	252

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population ...	18·9
Percentage illegitimate to legitimate	4·5%
Stillbirths	12

Births for the previous years may be compared:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
703	642	626	577	563	554	534

D E A T H S 1 9 5 4

No. of deaths during year	327
The death rate after correction of inward and outward transfers	11·55

Death rate for the previous years may be compared:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
11·31	11·69	11·00	13·78	10·51	11·68	11·55

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

Under 1 week	10
1 - 2 weeks	1
2 - 3 weeks	-
3 - 4 weeks	1
Total under one month	12
1 - 3 months	1
3 - 6 months	6
6 - 9 months	1
9 - 12 months	2
Total	22

COMPARISON OF INFANTILE MORTALITY

Bedwellty Urban District	41·19 per 1,000 births
Monmouth County	39·67 per 1,000 births
England and Wales	25·5 per 1,000 births

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES

N I L

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Per 1,000 births (Live and Still):

Bedwellty	0
Monmouth County	1·49

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1954

Cause	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	1
Measles	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
Diptheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-
Meningoooccal Infections	-	-
Parasite Diseases	1	-
Cancer (Stomach)	6	2
Cancer (Lung)	7	-
Cancer (Breast)	-	7
Cancer (Uterus)	-	1
Cancer (Other Sites)	9	8
Leukaemia	1	3
Diabetes	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	30
Coronary Disease - Angina	24	14
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
Other heart diseases	24	25
Other Circulatory diseases	5	10
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	15	6
Bronchitis	17	7
Other respiratory diseases	8	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
Congenital malformation	3	3
Other defined and illdefined diseases	14	17
Motor Vehicle accidents	5	1
Other Accidents	11	2
Suicide	-	-
Totals	182	145

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR

CAUSE	Under 1 Week.	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total
PREMATURITY	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
CARDIAC FAILURE	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
PNEUMONIA	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
GASTRO ENTERITIS	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
OTHER CAUSES	3	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	8
TOTAL	10	1	-	1	1	6	1	2	22

T U B E R C U L O S I S

Occupational Incidence of Tuberculosis

MALES

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
H.M. Forces	1	-	1
Engine Driver	-	1	1
Blacksmith	-	1	1
Labourer	2	1	3
School Age	1	2	3
Under School Age	3	-	3
Machine Operator	1	-	1
Factory Worker	3	-	3
Miner	9	1	10
Delivery Man	2	-	2
Fitter	1	-	1
Publican	1	-	1

FEMALES

Housewife	5	1	6
Shop Assistant	1	1	2
Factory Worker	5	-	5
School Age	-	-	-
Under School Age	1	-	1
Nursing Orderly	1	-	1

HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM TREATMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

Hospital	Pulmonary Cases		Non-Pulmonary Cases	
	Admitted	Discharged	Admitted	Discharged
Cefn Mably	1	1	-	-
Glan Ely	4	3	1	1
Energlyn	7	8	-	-
S. Wales San., Talgarth	6	1	-	-
Gelligaer Hospital	9	8	-	-
Memorial Ward, Chepstow	1	1	-	-
N. Wales San., Denbigh	1	1	-	-
Sully Hospital	13	8	-	-
City Isolation Hospital, Cardiff.	1	2	-	-
Adelina Patti, Swansea.	2	2	-	-
West Wales Sanitorium	2	-	-	-
	47	35	1	1

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary Cases	Non-Pulmonary Cases
January	3	-
February	1	-
March	5	1
April	3	-
May	4	2
June	5	1
July	2	-
August	2	2
September	1	-
October	4	-
November	1	2
December	6	-
	37	8

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1945	42	22
1946	38	20
1947	35	16
1948	36	19
1949	42	19
1950	32	15
1951	46	10
1952	38	9
1953	34	11
1954	37	2

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease during 1954

Age Period in Years	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	2	-	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3	4	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	5	3	8	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	4	2	6	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1
55 - 65	5	-	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total	24	13	37	6	2	8	1	1	2	-	1	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN REGISTRATION WARDS AND QUARTERS DURING 1954

Notifiable Disease	Totals	Phillipstown.	New Tredegar	Abergarwed.	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood.	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush	QUARTERS 1	2	3	4
Scarlet Fever	6	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
Pneumonia	4	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	2
Whooping Cough	54	14	2	9	9	6	13	-	1	-	15	24	11	4
Measles	26	3	-	1	4	6	11	-	1	-	1	10	13	2
Paratyphoid B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	23	2	2	4	1	2	8	2	2	-	6	7	4	6
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	115	19	8	15	15	16	35	3	4	0	26	42	29	18

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED — AGES GROUPS													DEATHS — AGE GROUPS											
	under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	2 - 3 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	4 - 5 yrs.	5 -10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over	Total all ages	under 1 yr.	1 - 2 yrs.	2 - 3 yrs.	3 - 4 yrs.	4 - 5 yrs.	5 -10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over	Total all ages
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	12		21
Whooping Cough	7	9	6	9	6	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Measles	1	2	2	-	3	12	5	1	-	-	-	-	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Paratyphoid B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
Totals	8	11	8	9	9	33	8	4	18	4	1	2	115	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	12		22

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed, Glam.

(Telephone: Bargoed 3321)

6th June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work done in my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

DAN POWELL

Chief Sanitary Inspector

NOTICES SERVED

1. Public Health Act, 1936. (Sec. 92 and 93)
   (Abatement of nuisances, repairs to property)

Intimation Notices	311
Abatement Notices	60

2. Public Health Act, 1936. (Sec. 83)
   (Cleansing of Premises) 4

3. Public Health Act, 1936. (Sec. 138) & Water Act, 1945.
   (Provision of adequate water supply to houses) 12

4. Food and Drugs Act, 1938. (Sec. 13)
   (Contravention in respect of premises where food is prepared, sold or stored) 1

5. Factories Act, 1937.

Number of Notices	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Below is a table showing the action taken during the year in the case of individually unfit houses (demolition, closure and repair).

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS	No. of Houses	Number of Persons Displaced
1. Housing Act, 1936.		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 11	2	8
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Sec. 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Sec.12)	1	Nil
2. Housing Act, 1949.		
(a) Closing Orders made under Sec.3 (1)	Nil	Nil
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Sec.3 (2)	Nil	Nil
3. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.		
(a) Under Sec. 10 (1)	3	3

REPAIRS

	No. of Houses
Informal Action	
4. Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health Act, 1936	96
Action under Statutory Powers	
5. Public Health Acts	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	36
(b) by local authority on default of owners ...	Nil
6. Housing Act, 1936	
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by local authority on default of owners ...	Nil

In addition to the above properties, the following is a list of dwelling houses which have been reported to the Housing and Public Health Committee for action under Sections 11 or 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Demolition or Closure). At the time of making this report, Demolition Orders have already been served in respect of the majority of these houses:-

4 & 5, Hall Street, Blackwood.
Sunset Bungalow, Fleur-de-lis.
Cherry Tree Bungalow, Fleur-de-lis.
Victoria Bungalow, Fleur-de-lis.
39, 39a, 40, 41, 42 & 43, Castle St., Fleur-de-lis.
1 & 2, Railway Cottages, Aberbargoed.
1, 2, 3 & 4, River Row, Aberbargoed.
1 & 2, Puddlers Farm, New Tredegar.
83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91 & 92, Lower Road, New Tredegar.

HOUSING ACT 1936 PARTS I AND III

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954, SECTION I

A survey was made of all the houses in the area and a list was prepared and submitted to the Council, of houses which were unfit for human habitation. It was estimated that the number of unfit houses in the Urban District of Bedwellty was 75, and that the Council proposed to secure the demolition of these buildings within 5 years.

The proposals required under the above Acts have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and at the time of making this report the approval of the Ministry has been received.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Number of applications received	5
Number of applications granted by the Council ...	4

REQUISITIONED PREMISES

There are no requisitioned premises in the area.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The routine survey of Council houses was carried out by this Department, special attention being paid to general cleanliness of the houses and the upkeep of gardens.

Prospective tenants for Council houses were visited and their premises inspected for cleanliness, before entry into the Council houses. If the prospective tenants lived outside the Urban area, enquiries were made by the respective adjoining local authority. Transfers from one house to another were also inspected.

These reports were submitted to the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. A.E. Morris.

The standard of cleanliness in Council houses is being maintained by the majority of tenants and only in a very small minority was it found necessary to cleanse the premises. In two cases, the Council gave tenants notice to quit because their houses were not kept clean, but immediately the notices were served the houses were cleansed to our satisfaction, and the notices were withdrawn.

It is still to be deplored that certain tenants seem to take no interest in the surrounds and gardens of the houses.

Number of prospective tenants visited and reports submitted to the Chief Financial Officer	146
Number of transfers inspected	47
Empty houses inspected	16
Empty houses disinfested	2

	No. of houses at 1. 5.55.
New Tredegar	57
Aberbargoed	409
Pengam	255
Cefn Fforest	314
Blackwood	569
Argoed	161
	1765

LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

MAY, 1955

	In Apartments	Others	Total
New Tredegar	86	58	144
Aberbargoed	151	33	184
Pengam	82	43	125
Cefn Fforest	69	10	79
Blackwood	124	56	180
Argoed	77	21	98
Outside Areas	31	23	54
	620	244	864

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries were made in cases of infectious diseases, and in some cases disinfection was carried out.

No. of inquiries made 7
No. of disinfections carried out... 7

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district. It is used by a few aged persons. Inspections of the premises were made during the year and the reports were satisfactory.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

No alterations in the source of supplies of water were made during the year. The Rhymney Valley is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board and the Sirhowy Valley portion of the area by the Council who

purchase water from the Tredegar Urban District Council.

6 samples of water were taken during the year and supplies proved satisfactory.

During the inspection of the district, it was discovered that many of the older houses did not have an adequate supply of water due to corrosion in the pipes. Notices were served on the owners of the premises to provide a proper and efficient service to the house.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are no swimming pools in the area, the nearest being at Pontllanfraith and Bargoed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There is still evidence of pollution in the two rivers in the area, mainly due to washings from local collieries and in many cases from refuse dumped by householders.

The Rivers Pollution Prevention Board is giving this matter their attention. Rat infestation of the river banks is being carefully watched and the Rodent Operators of the adjoining local authorities co-operate with your operator in the work of disinfestation.

PET ANIMALS - SHOPS

The Pet Animals Act 1951, came into operation on 1st April, 1952. The provisions of the Act, designed to regulate the sale of pet animals, required amongst other things, the licensing, with certain exceptions, of pet shops. There is only one establishment in your district selling pets as a side line.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year a deputation from the Council waited upon the officials of the National Coal Board at Ystrad Mynach and discussed the question of the nuisance arising from the grit deposited in the Aberbargoed area from the National Coal Board Power House. The deputation were informed that the Board were considering certain alterations to the grit arresting apparatus and other appropriate measures to combat the alleged nuisance.

The Council, during the year, became Members of the National Smoke Abatement Society, the Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee (Councillor Idris Bowen) and your Chief Sanitary Inspector being elected to represent the Council on the South Wales and Monmouthshire Division. Your Chief Sanitary Inspector is a member of the

Executive Committee for South Wales.

Samples of deposits from the atmosphere were collected in the apparatus fixed near Commin Road, Aberbargoed. These samples show the deposit of grit, smoke and sulphur in the air over that particular area. The samples are taken every month to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, and the results sent to our Department and to the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, London. The deposit gauge also records the rainfall in that particular spot. The figures are used in conjunction with those of a position in Bargoed and of course vary according to prevailing winds.

The monthly results received are:-

	Tons per square mile.
January	19·07
February	36·21
March	22·01
April	no readings taken
May	31·27
June	15·20
July	10·85
August	19·74
September	31·27
October	22·58
November	46·92
December	17·62

R A I N F A L L

I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. T.J. Jones, for the following information:-

Monthly Rainfall 1954

January	3·46 ins.
February	5·53 "
March	5·53 "
April	0·68 "
May	3·28 "
June...	6·98 "
July...	2·98 "
August	4·93 "
September	7·50 "
October	9·16 "
November	13·01 "
December	5·62 "
Total	68·66 "

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

No. of factories with mechanical power ...	37
No. of factories without mechanical power ...	34
No. of outworkers	Nil
No. of inspections made	78

A number of inspections were made in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Council. One notice was served for contravention of fire precautions and the notice was complied with forthwith.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

All the cinemas in the area were visited in connection with the ventilation and sanitary accommodation of the premises. Generally speaking, all the premises were maintained in a clean condition. The Rodent Operator carried out disinfestation of rats in two cinemas.

CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the area.

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

In accordance with the requirements of the above Act, the work of rodent control was continued throughout the year by the Operator, Mr. S. Parker, and his trainee assistant, Mr. C. Shelton. Complaints by occupiers were investigated and treatment carried out where necessary. Our assistance was frequently sought by occupiers of premises concerned with infestation by crickets, ants, cockroaches, wasps and hornets. Advice and insecticides were given in all cases and the residents showed their appreciation of this service.

Inspection of farms were made under the Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks Regulations, 1950, when threshing was in progress. If a farm was found infested with vermin, a report was sent to the Monmouthshire Agricultural Committee. It is pleasing to report that the farmers co-operated with the Department at all times.

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Non-Agricultural			Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All Other (including Business) Premises	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	13	7324	663	30
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	13	211	25	-
(b) Survey under the Act	-	-	-	12
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	5	10	-
3. Total inspections carried out-including re-inspections	50	367	42	12
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec.II) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats (Major	-	-	-	-
(a) Rats (Minor	13	169	16	-
(b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-
(b) Mice (Minor	-	47	7	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec.IV) treated by the L.A.	13	216	23	-
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	40	278	29	-

Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act for Structural Work - 1.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers were inspected and baited with poison bait at an interval of six months. Overleaf is a table showing the details of the treatment.

I would like to record my thanks for the co-operation and advice of the Regional Planning and Advisory Committee (Infestation Control Division) and the Divisional Control Officer, Mr. Richard Davies.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

SECTION 50

BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

No. of persons buried by the Authority - 4

No application was made to cremate a body. The Undertakers are:

Rhymney Valley ..... Mr. C. Wilde, New Tredegar.
Sirhowy Valley ..... Mr. Herbert Jones, Blackwood.

A contract has been made with these Undertakers to remove any dead person found on a highway, street or other public place to the Public Mortuary. It was not found necessary to use this service during the year.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

No. of autopsies conducted in the Post Mortem Room during the year 31

This is a decrease from the year 1953.

These premises are under my supervision and the part-time attendant is Mr. Elias Jones. The cases dealt with were from:

New Tredegar	6
Aberbargoed	3
Pengam	3
Cefn Fforest	3
Blackwood...	4
Markham	2
Fleur-de-lis	3
Outside Bedwellty Area	7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 SECTION 47

It was not necessary to take action during the year under this

Section	No. of Manholes	No.not Baited	No. Baited	Average Pre-bait Takes				No. Trays Fixed	No. of Trays used by rats
				Complete	Part	Total Takes	No Takes		
New Tredegar	97	-	97	3	39	42	55	41	19
Britannia	16	1	15	-	6	6	9	5	4
Pengam	18	-	18	-	8	8	10	4	2
Fleur-de-lis	53	-	53	-	18	18	35	11	2
Fair View	12	-	12	-	5	5	7	4	-
Cefn Fforest	26	6	20	-	7	7	13	13	2
Blackwood	118	-	118	6	50	56	62	50	14
Rock	20	-	20	-	3	3	17	2	-
Argoed	29	-	29	1	9	10	19	5	3
Markham	26	5	21	3	11	14	7	11	3
Hollybush	24	6	18	-	-	-	18	3	-
Aberbargoed	90	7	83	-	7	7	76	25	3
	529	25	504	13	163	176	328	174	52

section, which provides for the removal of persons who are in need of care and attention through age or illness to a suitable place.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING

This work is done by direct labour under the direction of Mr. T.J. Jones, Engineer and Surveyor.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 45 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year. 37 of these cases were of the pulmonary type.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

These duties cover a wide range and include the inspection of meat and other foods, as to their fitness for human consumption, the bacteriological examination of milk, ice cream, water, etc. The work also embraces the inspection of premises of all kinds at which food is manufactured, prepared stored or sold, for the purpose of ensuring that the highest standard of food hygiene is maintained not only in relation to the premises but also of the food handlers employed, and the vehicles used for the transport and distribution of food. It is pleasing to report that the standard of cleanliness of these premises in your area is maintained at a reasonably high level. The public are becoming more hygiene-concious and the traders are co-operating with the Department on matters concerned with clean food.

A. FOOD SHOPS AND STORES

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption, were condemned and destroyed. This food was surrendered by the shop-keepers during regular inspection at food shops:-

Meat

247 lbs. beef
5 lbs. pork
36 lbs. sausages

Canned Meats

23 tins jellied veal
28 tins stewed steak
28 tins luncheon meat
23 tins minced beef loaf
437 lbs. (39 tins) cooked ham
12 tins corned mutton
42 tins corned beef
2 tins ox tongue
2 tins pork roll

Canned Fruit

36 tins prunes
27 tins peaches
7 tins sliced bananas
24 tins pears
16 tins apricots
5 tins raspberries
5 tins grapes
99 tins plums
18 tins damsons
1 tin loganberries
18 tins pineapple
8 tins cherries
3 tins blackcurrants
13 tins grapefruit
18 tins apples
1 tin bilberries
4 tins oranges
2 tins fruit salad
1 tin gooseberries

Fish

11 tins pilchards
1 tin herrings
3 tins sardines

Fish

1 tin salmon

Canned Vegetables

34 tins beans
6 tins carrots
31 tins peas

3 tins beetroot
268 tins tomatoes

Other Foods

113 tins milk
17 tins soups
29 tins cream

3 tins spaghetti

Approximate weight of foodstuffs condemned during 1954 was

1 ton. 4 cwts. 1 qtr. 4 lbs.

B. MILK SUPPLY

Samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination from milk retailers in the course of retail sale, also from the various schools in the area.

During the year, 16 samples were submitted for examination. Of these, 4 were unsatisfactory. Steps were taken immediately in these cases to remedy the unsatisfactory supply.

No. of distributors	23
No. of dairies (other than farms)	6

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949, and Milk (Special Designations) Raw Milk Regulations, 1949.

(a) Dealers licences for sale of pasteurised milk.....21
(b) Dealers licences for sale of tuberculin tested milk...9
(c) Dealers licences for sale of T.T.Pasteurised milk.....6
(d) Supplementary licences for sale of designated milk by vendors from outside area.....13
(e) Dealers licences for sale of sterilised milk.....5

C. ICE CREAM

Careful attention was given to the conditions under which ice cream was manufactured, stored and sold. The premises were visisted, in some cases for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treated) Regulations 1937 - 52, and the maintenance of a good standard of hygiene. A large number of shops now sell ice cream prepacked, thereby eliminating the risk of contamination after wholesale distribution.

No. of retailers on the register 46

D. MEAT INSPECTION

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area. The meat supply for this area comes from slaughterhouses situated in adjoining Urban Areas. One of the main sources of meat supply to this district is the Maesycwmmer slaughterhouses situated in the Bedwas and Machen Urban Council area. The meat inspection is carried out at this slaughterhouse by a full time qualified meat inspector. The meat is distributed to parts of the districts of four local authorities, consisting of approximately 100,000 population. The four authorities are responsible for a portion of the Inspector's salary, the County Council paying one-half of the annual salary.

The upper section of the Bedwellty area is supplied with meat from the Tredegar slaughterhouse and a slaughterhouse in Brynmawr. The meat at the Tredegar slaughterhouse is inspected by a qualified meat and food inspector employed wholly by the Tredegar Urban Council, and the meat at the Brynmawr slaughterhouse was, until recently, inspected by a full time meat and food inspector. At the time of making this report, there was no full time inspector employed.

Below is an extract from the report of the Bedwas and Machen Inspector of the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned at the Maesycwmmer slaughterhouse.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING 1954

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
2956	563	22982	6241

representing approximately 1,110 tons 18 cwts. 4 lbs.

The amount of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouse, was

15 tons 13 cwts. 3 qtrs. 8 lbs.

E. FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS - SAMPLING

I am indebted to Mr. A.W. Prosser, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Monmouthshire County Council, for the report on the work done by the Department in 1954, under the Food and Drugs Act, in the Bedwellty Urban Area.

95 samples of food were procured at Aberbargoed, Argoed, Blackwood, Fleur-de-lis, Hollybush, Pengam and New Tredegar. They consisted of 70 milks, 18 other foods, 3 ice creams and 4 beers.

The Public Analyst certified all these samples, with the exception

of 2 milks and 1 ice cream, to be up to the standards required. The first milk sample was deficient in fats and solids not fat, but the second sample, which was an "Appeal to Cow" sample, proved that the first was of abnormal composition.

The one sample of ice cream was found to be deficient in fat. Legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturer and he was convicted and fined £3. 0. 0d., with £2. 2. 0d., costs. The average fat content was 3·65% and the solids not fat 8·70%.

F. PUBLIC HOUSES AND CLUBS

During the year, all the public houses and clubs in the area were inspected.

Number of Public Houses 32
" " Clubs 20

Particular attention has been given to the following points:-

(a) Provision of a constant supply of hot water to the bars.
(b) Condition of glasses (cleanliness or chipped).
(c) Decoration of servery and cellars.
(d) General condition and sufficiency of sanitary accommodation.
(e) Condition of sink and washing up arrangements.
(f) Condition of beer pipes and pumps.
(g) General state of repair.

In 29 of the premises, the general condition was satisfactory in every respect, and it is pleasing to note that in nearly every one of the Public Houses and Clubs there is a decided improvement in the question of cleanliness of the premises. During the inspections, co-operation has been shown by landlords and stewards to improve conditions and to carry out any recommendation.

Notices have been served where necessary to attent to certain matters as follows:-

(a)	Provision of hot water to bar	2
(b)	Decoration of servery	4
(c)	Limewashing of cellar	6
(d)	Decorating or repair of sanitary accommodation	11
(e)	Condition of shelves and counters	2
(f)	Condition of sink and drainage board	4
(g)	Other minor repairs	2

Premises where notices have been served, were revisited. It was noticed that there is an increase in the number of licensed premises catering for both sexes and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided

in these cases.

If the public will demand clean glasses, clean accommodation for drinking etc., it will play an important part in influencing the landlord or steward in the right manner.

G. CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND RESTAURANTS

Inspections were made of all the premises in the area where meals are prepared and consumed. It is pleasing to report that the caterers are realising why cleanliness is so important. The greatest single factor in maintaining cleanliness and safety is the mental attitude of those who handle food. If they have food hygiene at heart they will ultimately see that their utensils are clean. One of the biggest faults, especially in the smaller restaurants, is the very limited space allowed for the kitchen. They tend to become congested during the preparation of meals.

Inspections were also made of places where butchers were making "smalls" (sausages, faggots, etc.), also bakeries.

Restaurants

No. of premises inspected	7
No. of notices served (repairs) ...	1
No. of notices complied with ...	1

Bakeries

No. of inspections	4

One notice was served to limewash walls.

Butchers (making of smalls)

No. of inspections	8
No. of notices served	2
No. of notices complied with ...	2

FOOD POISONING

There was no reported outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933

No. of new licences issued to slaughtermen	2
No. of renewals of licences for slaughtermen	9

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Number of Shops and Shop Assistants
in the Bedwellty District

	TYPE OF PREMISES				SHOP ASSISTANTS			
	Shops	Sheds	Market Stalls	Total Prems.	Over 18 yrs.	16-18 years	14-16 years	Total
New Tredegar	105	-	-	105	86	12	11	109
Aberbargoed	48	1	-	49	77	5	5	87
Pengam	49	1	-	50	69	12	9	90
Cefn Fforest	24	1	-	25	18	5	2	25
Blackwood	134	3	4	141	314	97	22	433
Argoed	10	2	-	12	17	2	-	19
Markham	8	3	-	11	18	2	-	20
Hollybush	3	-	-	3	3	1	-	4
Totals	381	11	4	396	602	136	49	787

The above table shows an increase in the number of assistants employed in 1953.

I should like to thank the Members of the Council and the Staff for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAN POWELL

Chief Sanitary Inspector

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